

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 7 and 8. Please also amend claims 1, 3, and 4 as shown in the complete list of claims that is presented below.

1. (currently amended) A signal processor for a joystick that controls a solenoid (21) comprising:

a joystick input device (11) which controls a joystick voltage input value  $V_i$  in response to an operating amount of a joystick (10) from a neutral position,

input means (13) which inputs outputs the average value of the joystick voltage input value  $V_i$  read at every sampling time over a predetermined number of past occasions as a joystick voltage computation value  $V_{ic}$ ,

computation means (14) which computes an output computation value  $V_{oc}$  set in response to the joystick voltage computation value  $V_{ic}$ , and

operation start detecting means which detects an operation start when the joystick (10) is pushed over from the neutral position,

wherein the computation means (14) increases the output computation value  $V_{oc}$  to a predetermined value in response to the joystick voltage compensation value  $V_{ic}$  and momentarily causes a predetermined maximum current corresponding to a threshold current value flowing through the solenoid (21) when operation from the neutral position is detected to start.

Claim 2 (cancelled).

3. (currently amended) A signal processor for a joystick that controls a joystick, comprising:

a joystick input device (11) which varies a joystick voltage input value  $V_i$  according to an operating amount of a joystick (10) from a neutral position,

input means (13) which outputs the average value of the joystick voltage input value  $V_i$  read at every sampling time over a predetermined number of past occasions as a joystick voltage computation value  $V_{ic}$ ,

computation means (14) which computes an output computation value  $V_{oc}$  set according to the joystick voltage computation value  $V_{ic}$ , and

operation start detecting means which detects an operation start when the joystick (10) is pushed over from the neutral position,

wherein the computation means (14) increases the output computation value  $V_{oc}$  to an effective maximum value corresponding to a threshold current value flowing through the solenoid (21) and momentarily causes a predetermined maximum current when operation from the neutral position starts.

4. (previously presented) A signal processor for use between a manually operable input arrangement and a proportional solenoid valve that is coupled to a hydraulic cylinder, the input arrangement providing an input signal, said signal processor comprising:

means for sampling the input signal to generate a sequence of digital samples;

means for generating a sequence of digital computed values from a latest one of the samples and a predetermined number of earlier samples;

means for converting the digital computed values to an analog signal; **and**

a drive circuit that supplies drive current to the proportional solenoid valve in response to the analog signal; and

means, responsive to the drive current, for detecting when the input arrangement is displaced from a neutral position,

wherein the drive current is temporarily increased to a predetermined maximum value when the means for detecting detects that the input arrangement has been displaced from the neutral position.

5. (previously presented) The signal processor of claim 4, wherein the input arrangement comprises a joystick.

6. (previously presented) The signal processor of claim 4, wherein the computed values are averages.

Claims 7 and 8 (cancelled).